

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Burton Amernick on 02/08/2011.
3. Please amend the claims as follows:
4. Cancel **claim 20**.
5. Incorporate the limitations of **claim 20** with **claim 11**.
6. **Claim 11** should now read as follows:
7. A process for purifying and cooling a gas stream comprising a dialkyl ester A) of an aromatic dicarboxylic acid, which comprises treating the gas stream with an aliphatic dihydroxy compound B) at a temperature less than/equal to the melting point of the dialkyl ester A) in a 1st stage and treating the gas stream with an aliphatic dihydroxy compound B) in at least one second stage, wherein the dihydroxy compound B) has a temperature of less than/equal to 140°C in the first stage and has a temperature of from 20 to 80°C in the second stage, and wherein the temperature of the second stage is cooler than the temperature of the first stage.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. **Claims 11-19 and 21-30** are allowed.

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9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

10. The most pertinent prior art of record is Janzen et al, DD 145540A (Janzen). The invention of Janzen is similar to the invention of instant application in that both are concerned with removing a dialkyl ester of an aromatic carboxylic acid from a gas stream using a dihydroxy compound. In the case of Janzen, the dialkyl ester is dimethyl terephthalate (DMT) and the dihydroxy compound is glycol.

11. Janzen differs from instant application in that the process of Janzen treats the gas stream containing DMT with glycol in only one stage while the process of instant application requires at least two dihydroxy treatment stages. In the case of instant application, the dihydroxy compound in the second step is cooler than in the first step. Although it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to repeat the one glycol treating stage of Janzen at the same temperature in order to improve efficiency, it would not have been obvious to alter the temperature of the first and/or second stage to create a temperature difference between the stages.

12. For at least these reasons, **claims 1-19 and 21-30** are allowable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS MCKENZIE whose telephone number is (571)270-5327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7AM-5PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/THOMAS MCKENZIE/
Examiner, Art Unit 1776

/Duane Smith/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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TBM